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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 22 | Humidity 66% Scattered thunderstorms Sensex 75,415 | Nifty 23,719 | Gold 1,58,723 | Silver 2,74,886 | Dollar 95.63 | Euro 111.02 | GBP 128.47

MISSING TRAIN

19.5-km Yellow Line Metro sees around 2 lakh passengers daily, but train shortage has resulted in long queues and longer waits

PAGE 3

VINTAGE RIDES

City's ageing garbage vehicle collection struggles to clean its act as 5,000 autos still operating without GPS geo-fencing systems

PAGE 5

From spas or massage parlours, escort services and prostitution networks have now largely shifted out to social media platforms that enable traffickers and pimps to contact clients anonymously, evading police detection

RED-LIGHT AREAS MOVE INTO THE WEB

Cases registered under Immoral Traffic Prevention Act on the rise; 44 cases till April this year

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"Police are carrying out regular raids based on credible information and are closely monitoring suspicious online activities linked to trafficking. From 2024 till April 30, 2026, a total of 831 women were rescued
—Srihari Babu BL, DCP Crime-1

Bengaluru has witnessed a gradual increase in immoral trafficking cases in recent years. Police data shows that cases registered under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA) rose from 96 in 2019 to 179 cases last year, while 44 cases have already been recorded till April this year across the city.

Police officials said that while some cases are reported in public places, trafficking rackets are increasingly being operated through encrypted messaging apps and social media platforms. Police officers have also recently blocked six such websites.

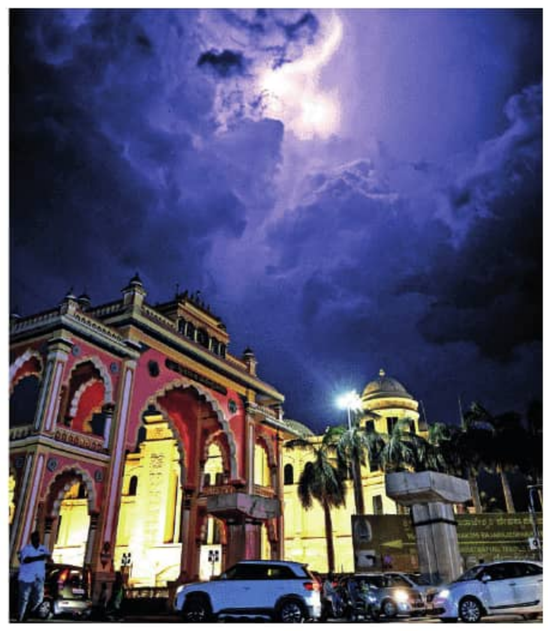
According to city police data, 98 cases were registered in 2019, 136 in 2020, 129 in 2021, 155 in 2022, 180 in 2023, 176 in 2024, and 179 cases in 2025. DCP Crime-1 Srihari Babu BL said the Central Crime Branch has been conducting regular raids to curb trafficking rackets operating from apartments, lodges, spas, and private houses. The CCB has registered 22 cases so far this year, compared to 64 cases booked in 2025.

Police officials said traffickers are increasingly shifting operations online, making detection and surveillance more difficult. With advancements in technology, trafficking and sexual exploitation rackets are moving

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Lightning effect

Bengaluru sees 3.41% yearly rise in thunderstorms, 3.3% more lightning activity



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If you have been feeling that Bengaluru has been witnessing too many thunderstorms lately, scientists say you are absolutely right. A new 13-year study found that thunderstorm and lightning activity over the city has been steadily rising, pointing to a major shift in local climate patterns.

The study, conducted between 2011 and 2023 using ground observations and satellite data around Kempegowda International Airport and Bengaluru, found that thunderstorms in the city are increasing by 3.41% every year, while lightning activity is rising by 3.3% annually.

The research was carried out jointly by scientists from the India Meteorological Department, Bangalore University and Andhra University, and has now been published in the journal Current World Environment. According to the findings, Bengaluru currently records an average of 41 thunderstorm days and nearly 157 lightning events every year. Researchers say the increase is linked to rising atmospheric moisture, changing monsoon patterns,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Stories come alive

The Galleria Mall has transformed into a Jungle Book-themed destination for children and families, with an immersive experience featuring larger-than-life animatronic displays of iconic characters along with workshops, performances and more.
Where: The Galleria Mall, Yelahanka;
When: Until June 7, 12 pm onwards

02 Colourful imagination

Magical World, an exhibition featuring a vibrant collection of artworks by Badrunissa Irfan, brings alive the magic of childhood and the warmth of simple moments through playful, hand-painted characters and scenes. Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: Until May 30

03 Music and chill

Candlelight® by Live Your City returns to Bengaluru this season, offering audiences intimate evenings where thousands of glowing candles transform venues into immersive settings for unforgettable live music experiences.
Where: Samarthanam Auditorium- Managed by Theatrenama;
When: May 30, 6.30 pm, 8.30 pm

04 Weekend celebration

The Oterra Hotel is hosting a Kids Carnival Brunch, bringing a vibrant world of cartoon legends and superhero adventures. While parents enjoy a premium spread, children can dive into interactive games, live performances and more. Where: The Oterra Hotel, 24@43, Electronic City;
When: Every Sunday until May 31

05 Craft carnival

Dastkar Bazaar presents its 25th edition with 160+ craft groups bringing authentic handcrafted merchandise across textiles, pottery, jewellery and wellness products. Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel; When: May 29 to June 4, 10.30 am to 8 pm

Shrinkflation in school supplies puts strain on family budgets

Parents face mounting strain amid rising costs and shrinking notebook sizes, compounded by soaring transport, fuel and household expenses

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Many school-related products including notebooks, stationery items, lunch boxes, water bottles and backpacks have reportedly become costlier (File photo)

As many schools have reopened for a new academic year in the city, parents are staring at yet another financial shock. It is no longer just school fees burning a hole in household budgets. From notebooks and school bags to auto fares and school transport charges, almost every back-to-school expense has become costlier this year, leaving many middle-class families worried about managing expenses.

Stationery shop owners and traders across the city say prices of educational materials are expected to rise by 10 to 15 per cent in the coming weeks due to increasing raw material and transportation costs.

The impact is already visible in Bengaluru markets where parents have started rushing to buy books, notebooks, uniforms and other school essentials ahead of reopening. Traders say manufacturers have stopped accepting bulk orders at old rates and are also unable to supply materials in required quantities because of shortages and rising production costs.

Price rise

According to traders, the rise in diesel and petrol prices has sharply increased the cost of paper, printing and transport. Raw materials used in notebook manufacturing, including paper and ink, have also become expensive and are not easily available. The ripple effect is now hitting almost every school-related product in the market, including lunch boxes, water bottles, backpacks and stationery items, many of which rely on imported materials and transport networks. "Notebook manufacturers are no longer taking orders at old prices. Supplies are limited and prices of all educational materials produced this month are expected to go up further," said Madhusudan, a stationery shop owner.
Parents say the situation has become difficult because they are simultaneously dealing with rising prices of groceries, cooking gas and other daily essentials while preparing children for the new academic year.

Hidden cuts

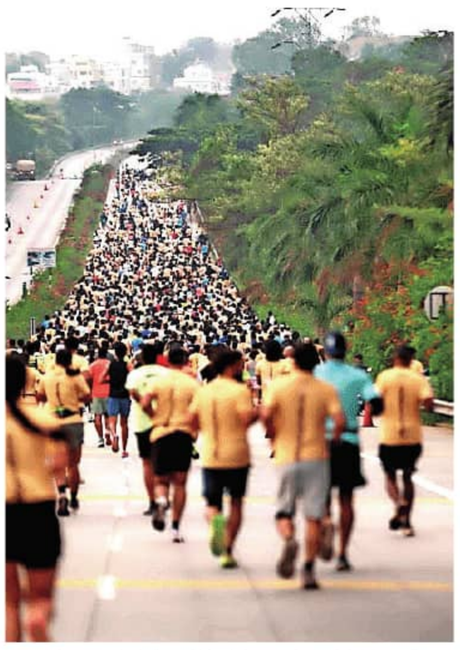
Another major concern for parents is what traders describe as "shrinkflation" in notebooks. Even as prices rise, the number of pages in notebooks has quietly reduced. Notebooks earlier sold as 100-page and 200-page books were first cut down to 88 and 176 pages, and are now increasingly being sold as 72-page and 144-page versions.
Despite the drastic reduction in quantity, prices have not come down and, in some cases, have even increased by Rs 5 to Rs 10 per book. Beyond the rising cost of school supplies, transportation expenses are also climbing across Bengaluru, with auto drivers and private school vehicle operators reportedly increasing their charges in response to higher prices of fuel.

Traders across city warn that prices of educational materials may rise by 10 to 15 per cent in coming weeks, driven by escalating raw material expenses and mounting transportation costs, with manufacturers also allegedly having stopped taking bulk orders at old rates

Parents say the combined impact of fee hikes, escalating transport charges and other rising education-related expenses is becoming increasingly difficult to bear, leaving many families struggling to cope with the mounting financial pressure.

"With schools reopening in a matter of days, Bengaluru families now find themselves struggling to balance educational aspirations with mounting costs. Many parents fear that every academic year is slowly turning into a financial crisis, with even basic educational necessities becoming increasingly expensive," said Uma Gowda, a parent.

Freedom Bengaluru Half Marathon 2026 successfully concludes with over 6,000 participants



Marathon, held on Sunday, saw enthusiastic participation

Bengaluru witnessed an energetic celebration of fitness, endurance and community spirit as the Freedom Bengaluru Half Marathon 2026, presented by Freedom Healthy Cooking Oil, concluded on Sunday.

In the Half Marathon, Harish Aun won the men's race in 1 hour 15 minutes 22 seconds ahead of Mohit (1 hour 15 minutes 33 seconds), while Simran Singh Rathi topped the women's category in 1 hour 43 minutes 10 seconds, followed by Harshitha NK (1 hour 50 minutes 59 seconds). In the 10K run, Pramod Bajirao Urkude won the men's category in 37 minutes 31 seconds, followed closely by Sanjeev S (38 minutes 16 seconds), while Devangi Purkayastha finished first in the women's category in 41 minutes 09 seconds, followed by Kriti Dey (42 minutes 53 seconds).

Initiatives like Freedom Bengaluru Half Marathon aim to contribute meaningfully towards building healthier community and encouraging people to adopt active living, says GM Marketing (Head Marketing) at Gemini Edibles and Fats India Limited

Speaking to BM, Chetan Pimpalkhute, GM Marketing (Head Marketing) at Gemini Edibles and Fats India Limited, said, "At Freedom, we have always believed in going beyond food. While healthy cooking oil plays an important role in nutrition, we also recognise that physical activity and fitness are equally essential for a healthy lifestyle. Through initiatives like the Freedom Bengaluru Half Marathon, we aim to contribute meaningfully towards building a healthier community and encouraging people to adopt active living."

Organised by Kalki Sports India, the event brought together over 6,000 participants including professional athletes, fitness enthusiasts, corporate teams, running clubs and first-time runners from across the country, making it one of Bengaluru's most vibrant running events of the year. The event transformed into a complete fitness and lifestyle celebration with an electrifying race-day atmosphere featuring warm-up sessions, live stage engagement, route entertainment, hydration stations, medical support, volunteer assistance and a premium finish-line experience for all runners.

With enthusiastic participation and an overwhelming response from corporates, fitness communities and individual runners, the Freedom Bengaluru Half Marathon continues to establish itself as one of Bengaluru's leading marquee running events.

— BMB

Running late: Still waiting for the Yellow Line train

Delays in adding new trains, despite earlier promises of monthly inductions, have left line with far fewer trains than planned, resulting in overcrowding and 9-minute waits

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Nearly nine months after the Yellow Line metro connecting RV Road and Bommasandra launched, commuters, especially tech professionals travelling to Electronic City, continue to struggle with long waiting times and overcrowded trains.

The 19.5-km corridor now sees an estimated one to two lakh passengers daily, but the train shortage prevents the service from matching demand. During peak hours, trains currently operate at nine-minute intervals, during non-peak times, frequencies stretch to 14 minutes, resulting in packed platforms and long queues at interchange stations.

When the line was inaugurated, commercial operations began with just three train sets. In the last nine months, only five additional trains have been inducted, bringing the total operational fleet to eight.

Though the 10th train arrived on April 28, it is still undergoing signalling and traction tests and is expected to enter service only by the end of May. Officials said the 11th train has also been dispatched from Kolkata-based Titagarh Rail Systems to Bengaluru.

Delay woes

The delay has become a major pain point for daily commuters using the city's IT corridor. At the time of launch, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) had promised to add two trains every month.

Had the plan stayed on track, the Yellow Line would have had 15 trains by now. Instead, overcrowding continues both on the Yellow Line and at the Green Line interchange at RV Road station, particularly during morning and evening rush hours.

Commuters say some passengers have now started opening laptops and attending office meetings while waiting endlessly on platforms. Sandeep Kumar, a frequent traveller, questioned why governments promoting public transport were failing to provide adequate services.

Techie K Devanand said peak-hour crowding has become unbearable and urged BMRCL to urgently increase train frequency.

Yellow Line timeline

Aug 2025: Yellow Line launched with 3 trains; 25-minute frequency
Sep-Nov 2025: 4th and 5th trains added; frequency reduced to 19 mins, then 15 mins
Dec 2025: 6th train inducted; peak-hour wait cut to 12-13 mins
Jan 2026: 7th train deployed; peak-hour frequency improved to 10 mins
Feb 2026: 8th train added; peak-hour wait reduced to 9 mins, non-peak to 14 mins

More trains on the way

Officials said five more trains from Titagarh are yet to arrive for the Yellow Line. In addition, BMRCL signed a Rs 414-crore deal with BEML last year for six more train sets dedicated to the corridor.

Once all deliveries are completed, a total of 21 trains are expected to operate on the Electronic City Metro route. Commuters, however, are demanding immediate action and want train frequency reduced to under three minutes to cope with the growing passenger load.

Animal birth control failing? Notched ears no guarantee of sterilisation

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Animal welfare activists and workers from parts of the city have raised concerns about botched sterilisation operations performed on stray dogs by NGOs deployed by the Greater Bengaluru Authority to implement its animal birth control (ABC) programme. Such cases have been reported from Sahakara Nagar, Bommanahalli, and Garudacharpalya.

Activists and feeders in these areas allege that, although the dogs' ears are notched, indicating sterilisation, they continue to procreate.

The 180 members of the animal welfare community in Sahakara Nagar were in for a shock recently when two female dogs that underwent sterilisation in February this year became pregnant.

According to Dipak Shodhan, a member of the animal welfare community group, the two female indie dogs were captured from the Sahakara Nagara Police Station area by personnel from the NGO conducting ABC surgeries in the area.

The dogs were returned on February 7 with their left ears notched. An ear notch is the universal surgical indicator that an Ovariohysterectomy (sterilisation) and Anti-Rabies Vaccination have been completed. On May 20, Shodhan observed signs of pregnancy in both dogs. "I took them to a veterinary hospital in the area. An ultrasound was conducted on the dogs, and it was confirmed that they were pregnant," said Shodhan.

The community has filed a complaint with Kodigehalli Police.

Animal welfare workers and activists say this is not the lone case. "There is a female dog with both ears notched in Hulimavu. She has littered multiple times over the last couple of years," said Swawambhu Soham, a resident of Hulimavu.

Notch in the ear

According to the ABC handbook, a permanent method of identifying dogs is vital to prevent the same animal from being caught and subjected to surgery twice.

This is especially essential with the female street dogs, as no outward sign of the sterilisation surgery will be visible once the animal has recovered fully and the coat has regrown. Thus, the tip of the right ear should be notched during surgery while the dog is under anaesthesia.

"Such cases have also been reported from Garudacharpalya. The idea of neutering is to ensure the animals don't go through cruelty. The NGOs deployed by GBA are paid for this work. We do not know how many such cases have gone unnoticed. It is a case of breach of trust that warrants terminating the contract with the organisation. Such acts put a question mark on the veracity of the committee's output," said Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust.

Traffic police stress on safety measures for school vehicles

With most schools reopening after the summer vacation, Bengaluru Traffic Police have directed schools and private vehicle operators to prioritise the safety of children travelling in school transport. Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy said school buses carry the city's future every day and urged school managements to conduct regular inspections and strictly follow government safety guidelines. He said schools, parents, drivers, and attendants must share the responsibility for children's safety.

The police mandated that school buses must have CCTV cameras, emergency exits, window safety rods, first-aid kits, fire extinguishers, GPS tracking systems, proper door-locking mechanisms, safe seating arrangements and all valid permits and fitness certificates.

Drivers must possess valid driving licences and vehicles should be maintained in good condition. Parents have also been advised to verify the safety arrangements in school and private vehicles transporting children. Traffic police will soon launch a special enforcement drive against drunk driving and overspeeding by school vehicle drivers and will take strict legal action against violators. **BMB**

Life convict fooled jail, now booked

A major case of prison fraud has come to light in Karnataka after authorities discovered that a life convict had reportedly managed to secure his release from Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison nearly eight years ago by using forged documents purportedly issued by the Supreme Court.

The incident has sparked serious concern within the Prison Department and prompted an investigation into possible collusion, negligence, and procedural lapses that may have enabled the convict's release. The convict, identified as Shankar Armugam, had been serving a life sentence in connection with a 2001 kidnapping-for-ransom case.

Officials said he was released from prison on November 13, 2018, after producing documents that allegedly showed he had obtained relief from the Supreme Court.

At the time of his release, prison authorities reportedly processed the documents submitted by him and released him after he paid a fine of Rs 10,000 mentioned in the purported court order. The matter came to light recently after the Director General of Prisons received a complaint alleging that Shankar had fraudulently secured his release by submitting fake Supreme Court orders.

Following the complaint, prison authorities initiated an internal inquiry into the matter. When oofficials contacted the office of the Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court in New Delhi for verification of the documents, they found that the order submitted by the convict was allegedly forged. **IANS**

SOS for Sankey Tank grows louder as water quality dips

Government spent huge amounts of taxpayers' money for work at lake, but condition of its water deteriorating by the day, say protesters

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Members of Voice of Sadashivanagar, lake activists and members of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) gathered on Sunday to raise awareness about the importance of protecting Sankey Tank, which is on the verge of neglect. They, along with children, held placards and shouted slogans demanding that the authorities concerned take measures to save the precious water body.

Residents complained that the government had spent huge amounts of taxpayers' money over the last decade in the name of developmental works at the lake, but the condition of the water body continues to deteriorate day by day.

"The lake has become an ideal place for politicians and the authorities to make money. I am aware that more than Rs 536 crore was spent in the last decade, but what is the use if the water quality is deteriorating day by day. I am not against beautification of the lake, but what is the use of beautifying the lake if the quality of water is not good?" asked BK Shivaram, a resident.

Expressing a similar opinion, resident Anoop Iyengar blamed the authorities and elected representatives for not taking measures to save Sankey Tank. "Depleting water levels in Sankey Tank have become a cause for concern. If no corrective measures are taken, the lake may join the list of dead lakes in the city. Many birds used to visit the lake, but no birds visit the lake now due to poor water quality," said Anoop Iyengar.

Members of an NGO performed a skit narrating how the water level in Sankey Tank is depleting and emphasised the need to preserve it without delay.

Coming down heavily on the authorities for neglecting Sankey Tank, resident Dr Manu said he had already complained to the authorities concerned about pollution in the lake, but in vain. "It is quite shocking and disturbing to see sewage entering Sankey Tank through two inlets. A BWSSB employee has also collected water samples from the lake. I caution residents who drop food and pooja items into Sankey Tank as part of rituals for departed souls. Why do you want to do rituals in such polluted water?" asked Dr Manu, adding that debris from the relocated idol immersion pond is yet to be cleared from the lake.

Expressing concern over the death of fish in Sankey Tank, Muralikrishna MN, a resident of Palace Guttahalli who visits the lake every morning for a walk, said he had come across dead fish floating in the water.

"I have been visiting the lake for many years. I am not happy with the quality of water in the lake. I demand that the authorities fix the sewage issue without delay," he said.

Citizens concerned about depleting water levels in Sankey Tank say if corrective measures are not taken soon, lake may join the list of dead lakes in the city; poor water quality has also driven away number of birds who were regular visitors

Advising the authorities to inspect all 11 inlets on Dr Jeevaraj Alva Road to identify the reason for the lack of inflow into the lake, resident Anuradha G said all the inlets were either closed or choked with silt and debris. BWCC and BWSSB engineers will inspect Sankey Tank inlets on Monday after sewage concerns surfaced, while BWSSB officials have already collected water samples to trace the source of contamination entering the lake.

Pedestrians pushed to the edge as it is business as usual on Frazer Town's footpaths

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Residents of Frazer Town have raised strong objections against the growing number of pushcarts, street vendors, and encroachments on footpaths and roads in the locality, particularly along Mosque Road and MM Road.

The issue has gained attention after residents noticed an increase in food stalls and vendors occupying newly developed footpaths in the area. Earlier, residents had opposed the setting up of Ramadan food mela stalls in Frazer Town, arguing that such activities led to heavy traffic congestion, smoke, noise, and large-scale encroachment of public spaces. While those stalls were reportedly restricted, locals now claim that permanent and semi-permanent pushcart vendors are slowly taking over the same stretches.

In a representation addressed to authorities and the local MLA, members of FTRWA and residents have requested the immediate removal of pushcarts, illegal street vendors, and all forms of encroachments from Mosque Road, MM Road, and surrounding areas within Frazer Town. They have urged officials to ensure that footpaths remain free for public movement and are not converted into commercial spaces.

According to residents, many food stalls have already started occupying the footpaths. Residents insist they are not against vendors earning a livelihood, but argue that vending activities should be shifted to designated spaces that do not obstruct public movement.

Umera Faisal, a resident of Frazer Town, said the locality is becoming more congested and difficult for residents with each passing day. "Most of the footpaths are completely encroached upon by vendors, stalls, balloon sellers, fruit sellers, and parked vehicles, leaving no proper space for pedestrians to walk safely. Residents are forced to walk on the roads, creating inconvenience and safety concerns. We have already approached the MLA and submitted letters regarding these issues, but the situation continues to worsen. Earlier, Frazer Town had more of a residential atmosphere, but now excessive commercialisation seems to be taking over the area. While development and business are important, it should not come at the cost of residents' basic convenience and quality of life. Authorities must take immediate action to restore proper footpaths, regulate parking, and maintain the balance of this locality." She further added that they are not against small vendors or pushcarts. "They also need to earn a living. But footpaths are meant for pedestrians, especially senior citizens, schoolchildren, and women. Vendors should be placed in proper vacant areas and not on busy roads and walkways." Apart from encroachments, residents said the locality is already struggling with multiple civic issues, including poor road conditions, inadequate street lighting, water supply problems, and unregulated parking.

Locals say overcrowded footpaths and unregulated vending activities are slowly changing Frazer Town's residential character and increasing inconvenience

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9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Flooded roads

Chelekere

Drain water has been flooding the road opposite Bangalore City College for the past one month, inconveniencing motorists and residents.

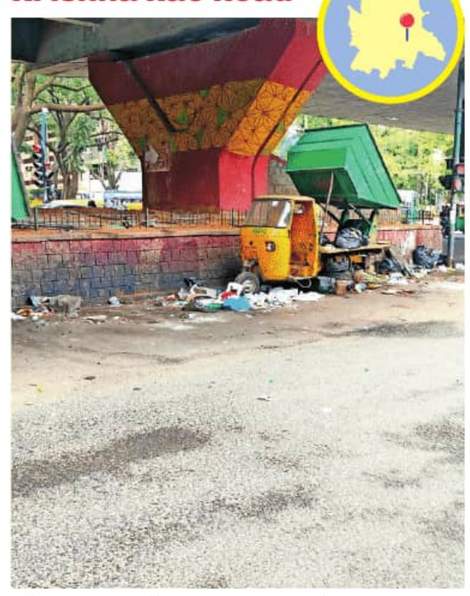
Broken slabs

Hampinagar

Broken cement slabs over the stormwater drain in front of Deccan Enclave Apartment are obstructing water flow and posing danger to road users.

Garbage menace

Krishna Rao Road



Garbage strewn across AN Krishna Rao Road and vehicles parked along the flyover are worsening unhygienic conditions in the area.

Driver's conduct earns relief in accident case

The Karnataka High Court has reduced the jail sentence of a driver convicted in a fatal road accident case from one year to a single day, while substantially increasing the compensation payable to the victim's family. The court took into account the driver's conduct immediately after the accident, particularly his decision to rush the injured victim to the hospital instead of fleeing the scene. Justice V Srishananda partly allowed a criminal revision petition filed by Riyaz Ahmed, a driver from Mangaluru, who had been convicted for rash and negligent driving causing death. According to the case records, the accident took place on July 15, 2015, when Ahmed allegedly hit a pedestrian, Anand Shetty, while driving negligently. Following the accident, Ahmed reportedly stopped his vehicle and transported the injured man to a hospital. However, the victim later died.

IN HIGH COURT

Taking note of the circumstances, the court modified the sentence and directed Ahmed to undergo imprisonment only till the rising of the court and enhanced the fine from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1 lakh. **–BMB**

75-year-old accused of sexual assault gets bail

The Karnataka High Court has granted bail to a 75-year-old man accused of sexually harassing and assaulting his daughter-in-law after noting that the complainant had no objection to his release and informed the court that efforts were underway to resolve the dispute amicably.

Justice MGS Kamal passed the order while hearing the accused man's bail petition in connection with a case registered at the East Women Police Station in Bengaluru. The case involved allegations of repeated sexual assault, cruelty, physical abuse and harassment within the family home.

During the hearing, the daughter-in-law appeared before the court through her counsel and stated that discussions for an amicable settlement were taking place. She also said she had no objection to the accused being granted bail. The High Court also took into account the man's age and the fact that he had already spent nearly eight months in custody. Observing these circumstances, the court concluded that the petitioner could be released on bail. **–BMB**

Proceedings halted in caste-based abuse case

The Karnataka High Court has stayed criminal proceedings initiated against alleged cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli and his associate in a case involving accusations of caste-based abuse against the president of a Dalit organisation. The interim order was passed by a vacation bench of the High Court, which also issued notices to the police and the complainant seeking their responses.

The FIR was registered at Masti Police Station in Kolar district following a complaint by the head of a Dalit association. According to the complaint, the accused allegedly used casteist remarks, attempted to assault him and tried to tear his clothes during a confrontation near a meat shop suspected of illegal cattle slaughter.

The petitioners told the court that videos from the incident, which were circulated on social media, did not contain any evidence of caste-based insults or physical assault. After hearing the matter, the High Court granted interim relief by staying further proceedings in the case until the next hearing, which is expected soon. **–BMB**

Ageing garbage trucks cripple waste collection efforts

Outdated vehicles, tender delays and operational constraints are reportedly hampering regular garbage collection across several neighbourhoods in city

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Bengaluru's ageing fleet of garbage collection vehicles has emerged as a major hurdle in the city's waste management system, with nearly 5,000 autos still operating without advanced GPS geo-fencing systems, according to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML). Officials say the outdated tender system and operational constraints are affecting regular garbage collection across several neighbourhoods, even as the civic body claims to have resolved over 91 per cent of waste-related complaints received through multiple complaint platforms.

"We have apps such as BBMP Sahaaya where citizens can raise complaints regarding black spots and garbage issues. The majority of the cases are cleared on the same day. If garbage is not collected and residents complain about foul smell, we ensure action is taken within 24 hours," BSWML Chief Executive Officer Karegowda told Bangalore Mirror.

Explaining the operational challenges, Karegowda said each vehicle has an assigned route and must collect garbage from every household. "The tenders are old and nearly 5,000 autos are operating without advanced GPS geo-fencing systems. We are trying to ensure proper monitoring and awareness creation," he added.

According to the Complaint Compliance Report of BSWML from April 1 to May 10, 2026, a total of 22,703 complaints were received through multiple channels, including the 1533 control room, WhatsApp, Namma Bengaluru App, BBMP Sahaaya App, Smart City Portal, Sahaya Helpline and SBM Portal. Of these, 20,715 complaints were resolved, reflecting a resolution rate of 91.24 per cent, while 1,988 complaints remain pending.

KAUSHIK JN

Sanitation workers note delays often stem from staff shortages, traffic and ageing vehicles, yet residents often blame staff

Though nearly 5,000 ageing autos still operate without GPS geo-fencing due to old tenders, efforts are on to strengthen monitoring, says BSWML Chief Executive Officer, while also highlighting prompt complaint resolution efforts

However, residents argue that the reality on the ground remains different in several areas where garbage collection vehicles fail to arrive regularly, forcing waste to pile up on roadsides and plots.

TRASH BOMB IS TICKING

"In our area, the garbage vehicle skips streets for two or sometimes three days. The smell becomes unbearable, especially during afternoons. We repeatedly call the helpline, but the issue keeps recurring," said Shobha R, a resident of RR Nagar.

Another resident from BTM Layout, Suresh Kumar, alleged that waste segregation done by households is often ignored by sanitation workers. "We separate wet and dry waste every day, but the pourakarmikas mix everything together while loading it into the vehicle. After putting so much effort into segregation, it becomes meaningless," he said.

The report shows that the highest number of complaints (10,431) were received through integrated digital channels including BBMP-AI, BBMP-UDP, CMO Office, Namma Bengaluru App, North Control Room, Sahaya Helpline, Smart City Mobile App, Smart City Portal and social networks. Out of these, 9,434 complaints were resolved, while 997 remain pending, resulting in a resolution percentage of 90.44.

The 1533 control room received 5,661 complaints, of which 5,455 were resolved and 206 remain pending. WhatsApp complaints registered through 9448197197 showed the highest resolution rate at 98.48 per cent, with 3,244 out of 3,294 complaints resolved. Meanwhile, the SBM Portal recorded the poorest performance, with only 77.84 per cent complaints resolved and 735 complaints still pending.

Residents say delayed responses worsen the situation as garbage accumulates rapidly in densely populated areas.

"Sometimes stray dogs tear open garbage bags lying on roads after collection vehicles fail to arrive. The waste spreads across the street and creates health concerns for children and elderly residents," said Sunayana Khan, a resident of Shivajinagar.

Another resident, Vinod Prasad from Mahadevapura, said many citizens have stopped using the apps because they feel complaints are not permanently addressed.

Frustrated by recurring garbage issues and delays in complaint redressal, Bengaluru resident Jyothish developed the NammaKasa app as a citizen-driven waste reporting platform. The app allows residents to report illegal dumping, uncleared garbage and black spots without sharing personal credentials.

"As of now, technology-savvy citizens, especially IT professionals, actively use platforms like NammaKasa and Sahaaya apps. But awareness has not yet reached every section of society," said Jyothish..

Sanitation workers on the ground say improper segregation by residents creates additional pressure on the waste management system. "Many households still dump everything together. When mixed waste comes into the vehicle, it becomes difficult for us to handle and sort," said a pourakarmika working in DVG Road.

Pourakarmikas also pointed out that delayed collection in some areas is linked to manpower shortages, traffic congestion and mechanical issues in ageing vehicles. They said workers are often blamed by residents despite operational constraints.

Vipassana camps introduced for inmates of central prison

In a fresh reform initiative aimed at improving the mental well-being and discipline of prisoners, the Karnataka prisons department has launched Vipassana meditation camps for convicted inmates at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. The programme is being introduced in phases for over 1,000 sentenced prisoners to promote mental stability, positive thinking and self-discipline among inmates who have spent years behind bars.

The first batch of 25 inmates has already completed a 10-day residential meditation camp, while plans are underway to train another 50 prisoners in the second phase. Prison officials said the initiative launched after explaining the benefits of Vipassana meditation to interested inmates, who voluntarily enrolled for the programme. During the camp, participants were kept completely isolated from other prisoners and guided daily by trainers from the Dhamma Paphulla Vipassana Meditation & Research Centre in Alur.

Initiative aims to promote mental stability among inmates (File photo)

Positive shift

Officials said inmates who completed the training showed noticeable behavioural improvements, appeared more energetic and expressed greater interest in positive thinking and disciplined living. Their feedback has reportedly encouraged more prisoners to volunteer for upcoming batches. The prison department believes the meditation programme could help inmates cope with emotional stress, isolation and long-term imprisonment while encouraging ethical and peaceful behaviour.

A senior official said sentenced prisoners are often cut off from family and society for years, making mental strength and emotional balance extremely important. He added that participation in the camps is entirely voluntary and the department plans to extend the initiative to other prisons in Karnataka after assessing its impact at Parappana Agrahara. **–BMB**

Phones at residential schools: Students can now stay in touch

RFID-based pay phone system will help hostel students safely stay connected with family that can improve emotional wellbeing and mental support

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Smart card-enabled communication facilities help hostel students stay emotionally connected with families while studying away from home for months

Thousands of children studying in government residential schools will soon access secure calling facilities, counselling support, and easier family communication through smart card-enabled pay phones across campuses

In an effort to improve student welfare and emotional well-being, Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) schools have introduced a Smart Card Pay Phone system across residential campuses in the state.

The project aims to provide students staying in residential hostels with a safe, secure and affordable communication facility to regularly speak with their parents and guardians. At present, the system has already been installed in 131 KREIS residential schools, with 12,289 students enrolled for the service. KREIS residential schools together have a total student strength of nearly 2.10 lakh students across Karnataka. The initiative has been developed and implemented by Apyvibe Telecom Services, a BSNL-empanelled vendor, in association with BSNL. The Smart Card Pay Phone system works using RFID-based rechargeable smart cards issued to students. Through these smart cards, students can make calls only to pre-approved parent or guardian phone numbers. Officials said this feature has been designed to ensure controlled and secure communication within school campuses.

The system does not provide incoming call facilities, helping schools maintain discipline and prevent misuse while ensuring students remain connected with their families. The service runs on BSNL network infrastructure, providing reliable connectivity even in remote regions.

R K Murthy from Apyvibe Telecom Services said, "The initiative has been specially designed keeping in mind the emotional and mental well-being of students living away from home for long periods. Many students in residential schools stay away from their parents for several months and may experience homesickness, loneliness, stress or emotional pressure. While students stay with friends and classmates in hostels, they may not always openly share their personal feelings or difficulties with others around them."

School authorities and project developers believe regular communication with parents can help students feel emotionally supported, reduce stress, improve confidence and help them focus better on studies and personal development.

The project was also developed after incorporating operational suggestions and field-level inputs from KREIS nodal officer Mahadev to make the system more student-friendly and practically suitable for residential school environments.

Another important aspect of the initiative is providing students access to emotional wellness support services such as Tele-MANAS and Child Help Line. Tele-MANAS is a mental health support platform where students can confidentially speak with trained counsellors and professionals about emotional stress, anxiety, depression, fear or personal challenges.

Officials said the pay phone system can help students easily connect to such services whenever they need emotional guidance, counselling support or emergency assistance.

The Smart Card Pay Phone system includes several key features such as RFID smart card-based calling, parent-number-only restrictions, centralised monitoring and management, affordable communication access and secure connectivity through BSNL infrastructure. Murthy added that the project was designed not just as a communication solution but also as a student welfare initiative focused on emotional support and mental wellness for children studying in residential schools. Officials said the project will expand to more KREIS schools after the summer break, strengthening communication access and emotional support systems for thousands of students studying in residential institutions across Karnataka.

8 of family drown near Bhatkal

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday expressed his grief and distress over the reported deaths of eight family members on their way to collect black clams on the Tatthehakalu beach near Bhatkal in Uttara Kannada district. CM Siddaramaiah announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each for the bereaved families. In a post on X, the Chief Minister said a search operation is under way for those still missing and urged people to pray for their safe return. Local authorities, police personnel and disaster response teams have intensified rescue operations along the coastal stretch amid fears that more people may have been swept away by strong currents. "Hearing the news that eight family members drowned near Bhatkal has left me distressed," he said. — BMB

Elephant attacks dominate Karnataka conflict deaths

Wildlife-human conflict is escalating across Karnataka, with 270 people killed in animal attacks over the last five years, according to Forest Department data. Elephant attacks alone accounted for 188 deaths, or nearly 66% of the total, followed by tigers, leopards, wild boars, crocodiles and bears. Karnataka, home to dense forests, wildlife corridors and the Western Ghats, has seen fresh concern after two recent deaths: a boy killed by a leopard in Male Mahadeshwara Hills and a woman caught in an elephant clash at Dubare. Kodagu recorded the highest number of deaths at 52, followed by Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru and Ramanagara districts.

— BMB

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Cockroach warning

Even as the quirky "Cockroach Party of India" campaign gains traction online, youngsters in Ilkal have found an unusual way to highlight a civic issue. A large pothole features a hanging cockroach-themed poster warning motorists about the crater-like road condition. "I am a cockroach and I have shocking news for you. A huge pothole has appeared near the government hospital. Vehicle riders, please drive carefully," reads the poster that has now become a talking point in the town. Locals say the creative protest was aimed at drawing the attention of authorities to the neglected road.

Toilet twist

A community toilet in Chimmad village in Bagalkot had the rare distinction of being inaugurated twice in a single day. Built at a cost of ₹6 lakh under the Centre's Swachh Bharat Mission and the gram panchayat's 15th Finance Commission grant, the six-room facility was scheduled to be inaugurated jointly by BJP MLA Siddu Savadi and Congress MLC Umashree last week. However, with Umashree failing to arrive on time, Savadi inaugurated one section comprising three toilet rooms around noon. When Umashree arrived nearly 45 minutes later, she inaugurated the remaining three rooms. Locals quipped that officials may have anticipated such a political situation and cleverly split the structure into two separate sections.

Ministers' warning

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi sparked political chatter last week after saying ministers "should not become lazy" and calling for a cabinet reshuffle to inject fresh energy into the government. He said ministers may not exactly be inactive, but their visits to Vidhana Soudha had reduced and a reshuffle was needed because "water stagnates if it does not flow." He maintained that Siddaramaiah should continue as Chief Minister for the next two years.

'Steel beats rock'

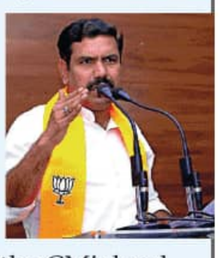
Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar responded with sarcasm when asked about Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy calling him a "weak minister." At a recent press interaction, Shivakumar quipped that it was true he was a weak minister while Kumaraswamy, being the "Steel Minister", was naturally stronger. When reporters pointed out that Shivakumar is popularly known as "Bande" (rock), he replied with a smile that even rocks can be broken by steel.

Name game

With Ramanagara already rebadged as Bengaluru South and fresh demands to turn Tumakuru and Bengaluru North after earlier calls to market Kolar as Bengaluru East, the Bengaluru branding wave seems unstoppable. Taking a swipe at the trend, Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan joked that at this pace, Mangaluru could soon become "Bengaluru Beachfront," Kalaburagi "Bengaluru Far East," Kodagu "Bengaluru Hill Station," and perhaps the whole of Karnataka may eventually be renamed "Greater Bengaluru Pradesh." The sarcastic remark has struck a chord online, with many questioning whether district identities are slowly being overshadowed by Bengaluru's growing political and economic pull. Others, however, argue that the renaming push aims to boost visibility, investment and real estate appeal in regions surrounding the state capital.

Metro politics

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging people to reduce fuel consumption, Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra travelling by Metro for a programme sparked a political slugfest. Expelled BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal sarcastically asked whether Vijayendra walked or cycled to the Metro station before claiming to have reduced fuel usage, while Karnataka IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge also wondered how much fuel was really saved. Hitting back, Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka said Priyank should instead direct the question to the CM's legal advisor A.S. Ponnanna, who had spoken about reducing convoy vehicles.



Party spirit

Former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda turned nostalgic while recalling that hockey was once his favourite sport during his student days. "I was 18 then, it was a different story. Now I am 94 and unable to even hold the bat," he remarked with humour at the JDS Premier League event organised by the Janata Dal (Secular) to mobilise and bring together party workers. Adding a lighter touch, Nikhil Kumaraswamy said it was perhaps the only tournament where he would not root for anyone's victory since both winners and losers belonged to the same party and the results should also be taken in the same spirit.

— Sridhar Vivan

BM SIMPLY PUT

From global crises to women's financial security

Why gold prices are soaring

Gold prices in India have reached unprecedented highs, transforming the yellow metal from a traditional ornament into one of the most trusted financial safety nets for households. What once seemed shocking at 70,000 per 10 grams just two years ago now appears modest as prices continue to surge beyond expectations.

The sharp rise is not merely a market phenomenon. It reflects global economic uncertainty, currency fluctuations, inflation fears and changing investment behaviour among families, especially women, who increasingly view gold as a symbol of financial independence and emergency security.

Why are gold prices rising so sharply?

Analysts point to three major reasons driving the surge in gold prices globally and in India: central bank buying, rupee depreciation coupled with inflation, and geopolitical instability.

How are central banks influencing gold prices?

Central banks across the world are aggressively increasing their gold reserves to reduce dependence on the US dollar. This large-scale buying has created sustained global demand for gold, helping prices remain consistently high.

What role does the rupee-dollar exchange rate play?

India imports most of its gold because domestic production remains extremely limited. As a result, when the rupee weakens against the dollar, imported gold automatically becomes more expensive in the Indian market. Rising inflation has also pushed middle-class families to invest in gold as a way to protect their savings.

How much have gold prices increased in recent years?

Gold prices have witnessed a dramatic rise over the past five years. The price of 24-carat gold per 10 grams increased from 52,670 in 2022 to 1,56,930 in 2026. Similarly, 22-carat gold rose from 48,280 to 1,43,850 during the same period.

Why are investors treating gold as a safe asset?

Ongoing wars, global supply-chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions have increased uncertainty in international markets. During such periods, investors usually move their money into safer assets like gold, further pushing up demand and prices.

Why is gold becoming more important for women financially?

For many women, gold is no longer viewed merely as jewellery. It is increasingly seen as an emergency financial asset that can be quickly converted into money during crises. Many households prefer pledging gold for loans because gold loans are easier and faster to obtain compared to personal loans that require extensive documentation.

How profitable has gold investment been recently?

Reports suggest that investment in gold delivered nearly 41% returns over the past year alone, making it one of the strongest-performing assets during a period of economic uncertainty.

Why does gold continue to hold emotional and financial value in Indian households?

Beyond investment value, gold continues to symbolise security, dignity and independence, especially for women. Increasingly, women are buying gold not only for weddings and ornaments but also as a long-term financial safeguard for uncertain times.

IPL 2026 Festival of cricket

Archer's double act fires Rajasthan into IPL playoffs

Rajasthan Royals sealed the final Indian Premier League playoff spot with a commanding 30-run victory over Mumbai Indians on Sunday after Jofra Archer turned match-winner with both bat and ball.

The English fast bowler's explosive cameo of 32 off just 15 balls, which included three sixes, helped rescue Rajasthan from early trouble before his devastating bowling spell dismantled Mumbai's chase. Mumbai won the toss and elected to field, a decision that initially looked shrewd when Rajasthan stumbled to 33-2 with openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi back in the pavilion.

But Dhruv Jurel (38) steadied the ship before Archer's fireworks propelled the visitors to a challenging total of 205-8.

Archer then switched roles to devastating effect, dismissing veteran Mumbai opener Rohit Sharma for a duck in the very first over before bowling Naman Dhir in his next over to leave the hosts reeling at 18-2.

The fast bowler then dismissed skipper Hardik Pandya (34) to finish with figures of 3-17. Despite a fighting knock of 60 from Suryakumar Yadav, Mumbai could only muster 175-9 in their 20 overs.

Jofra Archer gestures during the Indian Premier League cricket match

"I don't think it's my best year, I have bowled a little bit better than this," Archer said after he was named player of the match. "Every time you take the ball, you just try to bowl in good areas. Some days you're not going to get rewarded, happy that we got rewarded on the day we needed to win. **–Reuters**

KL Rahul shines with 30-ball 60

Delhi Capitals rode on KL Rahul's fluent 30-ball 60 and late fireworks from David Miller, who smashed a 19-ball 28, to post 203/5, their highest total at Eden Gardens, in their 20 overs against Kolkata Knight Riders on Sunday.

It was an innings from DC where everyone chipped in with cameos to take the side past 200-mark, with Rahul smashing clean boundaries at a strike-rate of 200 being the standout knock. DC will now look to defend the total and sign off from the competition on a high. For KKR, Saurabh Dubey was the standout bowler with 2-28 in his four overs.

Inserted into batting first, Rahul and Abishek Porel gave DC a brisk start. Porel cracked successive boundaries off Anukul Roy in the opening over and added more fours off Kartik Tyagi, while Rahul lifted Cameron Green for a six and four in the third over. But Porel fell for 22 in the fourth over after edging Dubey behind to the keeper.

Sahil Parakh joined Rahul and the pair kept the tempo high. The teenaged Parakh struck Narine for a six and four, while Rahul cleared him for a six slammed straight down the ground, before punching the wily off-spinner over his head for another boundary. Varun Chakaravarthy was taken for boundaries by Parakh, before giving a catch to Ajinkya Rahane off Narine and fell for 24.

Delhi Capitals' KL Rahul, left, celebrates his half century with captain Axar Patel

Rahul, however, raced to his fifth fifty of this season off 25 balls, before he and Axar Patel took two boundaries each off Tyagi and Roy. But Rahul fell to Roy in the 13th over by holing out to long-off. Axar and Miller then steadied the innings, adding crucial runs against spinners. **–IANS**

Women lured into trade through fake job offers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from physical locations to online platforms to avoid police detection. Officials said escort services and prostitution networks are now largely operated through social media platforms, enabling traffickers and pimps to contact clients anonymously. Earlier, such activities were commonly run from massage parlours, spas, pubs, and lodges. However, due to frequent police raids and growing public awareness, such operations have reduced in the city, a police officer said. DCP Babu explained, "Police are closely monitoring social media platforms and have blocked around five to six major websites linked to such activities."

Recently the CCB Women Protection Squad conducted raids at rented houses in Ajith Nagar under Soladevanahalli and Vidhyaman Nagar on Andrahalli Main Road under Byadarahalli after receiving credible information about prostitution activities. During the operation, police arrested two women for allegedly running a prostitution racket and rescued three women. Police said the accused contacted customers over phone calls and arranged prostitution services from rented houses. Separate cases have been registered at Soladevanahalli and Byadarahalli police stations.

Last month, The Central Crime Branch arrested four women for allegedly forcing women into prostitution from rented houses in Vijayanagar, Banaswadi and Byadarahalli. Four women, including two from other states, were rescued during raids by the CCB Women Protection Squad. Police said the accused lured women with fake job offers, kept them in PG accommodations and forced them into prostitution. Cases were registered at Vijayanagar, Banaswadi and Byadarahalli police stations.

In another raid conducted the same month, the CCB Women Protection Wing detained six foreign women near the Madiwala Check Post in Koramangala after receiving information about prostitution activities. Police said the women, mainly from Uganda and Nigeria and aged between 25 and 40 years, were allegedly approaching men near a bus stop.

Officials found that they had entered India with valid passports and visas, but the documents had expired. A case has been registered, and the Foreigners Regional Registration Office has been informed for further action, including possible deportation.

A senior police official said women from African countries and several parts of the country are increasingly involved in online prostitution rackets. They allegedly contact clients through social media and operate from serviced apartments and private houses. Police said tracking them is difficult as they frequently change phone numbers, profiles, and use encrypted messaging apps.

Babu explained that police are carrying out regular raids based on credible information and are closely monitoring suspicious online activities linked to trafficking. He added that from 2024 till April 30, 2026, a total of 831 women were rescued. According to city police data, 443 women were rescued in 2024, 329 in 2025, and 59 women have been rescued so far in 2026. Police officials said many of the rescued women are repeat offenders. Though they are shifted to rehabilitation centres, several reportedly return to prostitution by changing their phone numbers and locations, another officer said.

Excluding natural heirs not enough to invalidate Will: SC

The Supreme Court has upheld the validity of a Will executed by a Karnataka-based chartered accountant in favour of his sister, ruling that mere exclusion of natural heirs from inheritance cannot by itself be treated as a suspicious circumstance to invalidate a testament.

A Bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Vijay Bishnoi dismissed an appeal filed by the wife and children of the late B. Sheena Nairi, who had challenged concurrent findings of the trial court, the first appellate court and the Karnataka High Court upholding the Will executed in favour of the testator's sister.

The dispute pertained to properties owned by the deceased, including agricultural lands in Udupi district, Karnataka, which were bequeathed to his sister, Laxmi Nairthy, under a Will dated May 15, 1983, excluding his wife and children.

The wife and children of the testator had alleged that the Will was forged and fabricated, and contended that the exclusion of the legal heirs itself created suspicious circumstances around its execution.

Rejecting the contention, the Supreme Court said that "mere exclusion of the natural heirs from the property of the testator, by itself, cannot be construed as a suspicious circumstance so as to invalidate a Will outrightly."

"It is well-established that mere deprivation of natural heirs, by itself, may not amount to a suspicious circumstance because the whole idea behind the execution of a Will is to interfere with the normal line of succession," the Justice Bhuyan-led Bench observed.

The judgment noted that the Will itself clarified that the testator had already given "enough and more" to his wife and children residing in Bombay, and therefore no injustice had been caused to them.

Referring to settled legal principles governing proof of Wills, the apex court said that the testimony of one attesting witness is sufficient to establish due execution if it satisfies the requirements under the Indian Succession Act and the Evidence Act.

It added that one of the attesting witnesses, B Jagannatha Nairi, had categorically deposed that the testator signed the Will in his presence and that both of them had signed it in the presence of each other. The Justice Bhuyan-led Bench also rejected the argument that the delay in producing the Will cast doubt on its genuineness, stating that the beneficiary had moved a representation before the Tehsildar in 1984 itself seeking mutation based on the Will.

On the question of mutation entries, the Supreme Court reiterated that mutation in revenue records does not confer title and is carried out only for fiscal purposes. The top court further said that non-registration of a Will does not affect its validity, observing that there is no legal requirement mandating registration of testamentary documents.

"There is nothing in law which requires the registration of a Will and Wills are in a majority of cases not registered at all," it observed.

Dealing with the appellants' objection regarding non-compliance with Order XLI Rule 31 of the Civil Procedure Code by the first appellate court, the Justice Bhuyan-led Bench held that mere technical defects in framing points for determination would not vitiate a judgment if there was substantial compliance and proper appreciation of evidence.

It also refused to rely upon affidavits allegedly filed by attesting witnesses denying execution of the Will, holding that affidavits are not evidence unless tested through cross-examination in accordance with the law. "An affidavit is not an 'evidence' within the meaning of the Evidence Act… and cannot be relied upon unless the deponent is subjected to cross-examination," the judgment said. **IANS**

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I, AJAZ KHAN MAHBOOB KHAN, R/a.No.29, 1st Cross, Shivaji Road, Balappa Garden, Shivajinagar, Bangalore–51. I, have Changed my name to AJAZ KHAN Vide affidavit, dated 22/05/2026 Sworn before notary R.Basavaraja Bangalore

I, Namratha Naryanee Sanjay, have changed my name to Namratha Narayanee Sanjay. Henceforth, I shall be known as Namratha Narayanee Sanjay for all official and personal purposes.

I Maqsood Ahamed S/O, Abdul Rauf R/o No 26-1 Lakshmaiya Layout Opp To Shampur Bus Stop Shampur Main Road A C Post Bangalore Karnataka - 560045 have changed my name to Maqsood Ahmed.

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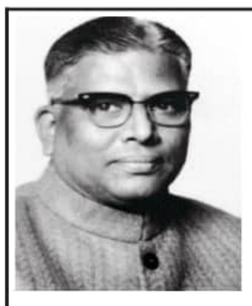
SHARING MEMORIES



29th Death Anniversary

Y. RAMA KRISHNA
EX. MP & EX. MINISTER

We miss you every moment of our lives. Your memories are immortal and missed beyond measures.
Fondly remembered by- Family Members.

Thunderstorms mostly seen between 7–9 pm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

urban heat buildup and growing air pollution over the city.

Peak hours

The study found that thunderstorms in Bengaluru are most commonly seen between 7 pm and 9 pm, with many weather events continuing until 3 am. Very few thunderstorms occur between early morning and noon unless triggered by cyclonic conditions. Scientists observed that Bengaluru experiences two major thunderstorm peaks every year: The first during April and May and the second during September and October. The southwest and northeast monsoons bring large amounts of moisture into the atmosphere, creating ideal conditions for thunderstorm formation over the city.

Researchers also pointed out that Bengaluru's weather itself has undergone noticeable changes during the last decade. Annual rainfall has increased by an average of 1.44 mm every year, while relative humidity has gone up by 0.74% annually. Atmospheric pressure too has shown a steady rise. Interestingly, average surface temperatures and wind speeds have slightly reduced over the same period.

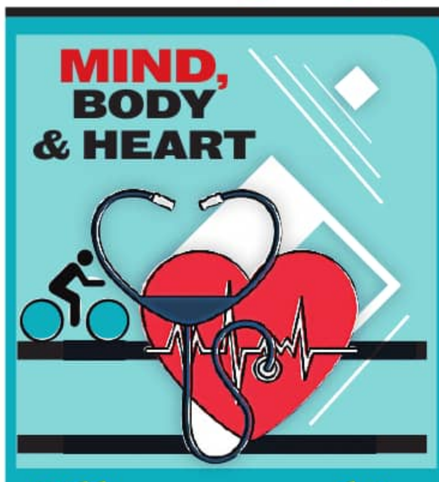
Pollution link

The study further highlights how air pollution and thunderstorms are now closely interacting over Bengaluru. Scientists observed increasing levels of atmospheric pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, ozone and aerosols. Ozone levels, in particular, were found to rise sharply during high-temperature conditions due to faster chemical reactions in the atmosphere.

Thunderstorms were also found to directly impact pollution levels across the city. PM2.5 concentrations gradually reduce once thunderstorms begin because rain helps wash pollutants out of the atmosphere.

Ozone levels react within an hour of a thunderstorm, while nitrogen dioxide levels change after nearly two-and-a-half hours due to shifting wind patterns during storm activity.

Experts warn that with increasing humidity, pollution and atmospheric instability, Bengaluru could witness even more intense thunderstorms, lightning strikes and sudden evening downpours in the coming years. The research was carried out by meteorologist Chanabasanagouda Sanganagouda Patil along with researchers Shaik Darga Saheb, Gunta Paparao and Kamsali Nagaraja. The findings come at a time when residents across the city have repeatedly complained of stronger winds, sudden rain bursts and frequent lightning activity during recent pre-monsoon weeks.



All you need to know about...

5 ways to reduce stress instantly

Try these instant relaxation techniques next time you're anxious or worried.

Do The 4-7-8
Also known as 'relaxing breath', the 4-7-8 breathing technique reduces anxiety and can also help you fall asleep. To do this, get into a comfortable sitting position. Place the tip of your tongue right behind your front teeth, and focus on breathing.

- Empty your lungs by exhaling
- Breathe in through the nose for four seconds
- Hold your breath for seven seconds
- Exhale through the mouth for eight seconds while pursing lips and making a whoosh sound
- Repeat the cycle up to four times

Try Progressive Relaxation
Progressive Muscle Relaxation or PMR is a technique that's effective in reducing overall body tension and psychological stress. The technique involves tensing and relaxing all the major muscles in your body gradually. Cover all the muscle groups one by one, inhaling while contracting for five to 10 seconds and exhaling while relaxing the muscles. Give yourself 15-20 seconds between each muscle group.

Head Out
Give yourself a change of scenery–take a walk or, even better, go for a run! While a meditative stroll can calm you, exercising can release endorphins, the mood-boosting chemicals.

Engage In An Activity
Refresh the mind by reading a thriller or watch a comedy show or movie and bring back your happy laugh! You can also busy yourself in doing something creative you like, such as playing music, sketching, or crafting.

Play With A Pet
Studies show that interacting with animals decreases levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Playing with pets like dogs or cats can also reduce feelings of loneliness while boosting mood. If you don't have a pet, try feeding stray animals in your area. **–Femina**

Take a swipe at it

Would you trust AI to help you find 'the one'? Dating apps are betting it can

In the relatively short time they've been around, online dating apps have transformed how we hook up, date and fall in love.

These apps have long been characterised by "swipe logic": users are shown profiles of others and must swipe left or right to decide whether they like them or not.

When Match Group first introduced this feature through Tinder in 2012, it fundamentally changed the dating scene.

Now, another transformation may be on the horizon, as Bumble has announced plans to shift to AI-powered online dating and retire the swipe. The move raises concerns about the future of intimacy and dating.

A Bee to find you love

Chief executive Whitney Wolfe Herd recently announced that, at some point later this year, Bumble will be introducing an AI powered dating assistant named "Bee" which is expected to replace the swipe format.

Bee will first chat to users to "get to know them", before suggesting potential matches, and thoughtful date ideas.

Bumble is the first mainstream dating app to overhaul its design to centre AI. But its not the first app to use it.

Various dating apps have rolled out AI features over the past few years. Hinge, for instance, has incorporated generative AI tools to help users with conversation starters, and to give them feedback on their profiles,

Bumble itself introduced an AI detective feature in 2024 to help boost user safety by identifying fake and scam profiles.

The decline of dating apps

Dating apps have become a key part of modern dating. They provide access to larger dating pools, especially for those experiencing "thin" dating markets due to their age, sexuality or location.

Despite these benefits, however, research suggests individuals using these apps become increasingly burnt out and frustrated over time. Most major apps are now facing declining numbers in users and downloads â " a shift characterised by swiping fatigue, safety concerns, and experiences of online racism and sexism.

> **Most apps are facing declining numbers in users and downloads - a shift characterised by swiping fatigue, safety concerns**

When it launched in 2014, Bumble was branded as the "feminist Tinder" because women had control over initiating the conversation.

But it has faced various criticisms since then. For example, research published in 2018 argued the app was optimised to work best for straight, white, cisgender women â " meaning they were likely to have smoother or more positive experiences than others. The app's "women message first" feature also reinforces the traditional idea that there are two genders (men and women) and each one should play a certain role in relationships.

The commodification of love

Academics have been writing about the commodification of intimacy and dating since the late 1990s. Sociologist Zygmunt Bauman theorised we are living in a era of "liquid love", in which we are "shopping for love", and looking for shorter, more flexible relations.

Another scholar, Eva Illouz, argued in her 2011 book Why Love Hurts that modern dating is shaped by an abundance of choice, and the pressure to compare and evaluate potential partners can make commitment feel more uncertain.

Dating apps intensify these dynamics. They "platform" intimacy through a market-like system, where profiles (rather than people) are browsed, evaluated and selected. In this environment, it's common to experience ghosting, stalled conversations, and ambiguity over what the other person wants.

AI matchmaking might reduce the uncertainties of modern dating, by narrowing choices and recommending more "compatible" matches. Or, it might just shift the source of the uncertainty.

Users will still have to navigate concerns around chemistry, intention and commitment â " and now they'll also have to decide if they trust the algorithm. They may not want to use AI at all, but will have no choice unless there's a way to opt out.

AI also introduces potential for bias in how users are "assessed" and matched. Although we don't know exactly how Bee will work, a plethora of research has shown AI can perpetuate inequalities and lead to discrimination in various contexts.

As American social scientist Safiya Umoja explains in her book Algorithms of Oppression, algorithms are not neutral systems; they can reflect and amplify existing social inequalities.

On a dating app, this could look like reinforcing gendered dynamics and heteronormativity in who is shown to whom, reproducing racial biases already documented in online dating, and privileging certain lifestyles and markers of class in determining "compatibility".

Not to mention that if the algorithm is effective in finding matches "like you", it could be closing you off from a variety of unique people and meaningful experiences.

Is AI dating the way forward?

In a society in which loneliness is on the rise, and love is in (apparent) crisis, do people want to use AI dating apps?

It seems unlikely. Research indicates individuals are increasingly looking for more "organic connections", and we have seen a boom in in-person dating events, from run clubs to social nights and speed dating.

Outsourcing matchmaking to AI risks further reducing love and intimacy -a universal human experience - into something to be quantified and calculated, stripping it of its humanness.

(By Maddison Sideris, Deakin University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Beat the bloating after a heavy weekend meal

If you had a heavy meal during the weekend, you can end up feeling too bloated. Many of us can relate to this extremely uncomfortable and overly-full feeling in the tummy. Here are some tips to avoid the belly bloat:

Chew your food

Gulping down food too fast leads to indigestion, according to Neelanjana Singh, nutritionist, Pushpawati Singhania Research Institute, Delhi. To avoid this, chew the food particles as thoroughly (at least 32 times) as possible. This ensures that the food mixes adequately with the juices used for digestion.

Manage portion sizes

Gulping down food too fast goes hand in hand with eating too much food. Give your body enough time (at least five hours) to digest each meal. Eating too frequently leads to acid reflux, causing food, stomach acids, and other digestive juices to flow into the oesophagus. This muscle, that opens when food enters the stomach and closes to prevent acid from going back up, then doesn't work properly.

Avoid sugar intake

The weekend surely calls for yummy treats and sweets. Try to cut back on artificial sweeteners, which consist of sorbitol, also difficult to digest. Avoid over-consuming diet sodas and energy bars.

Avoid aerated drinks

Cutting down on fizzy drinks helps. Aerated drinks cause gas to stay trapped in the body. Although we know it's tempting to guzzle down diet colas and lemon fizz, switch it up the next time you're at a party. Go for natural and freshly squeezed juices, coconut water and glasses of jaljeera. **– Femina**

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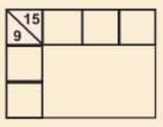
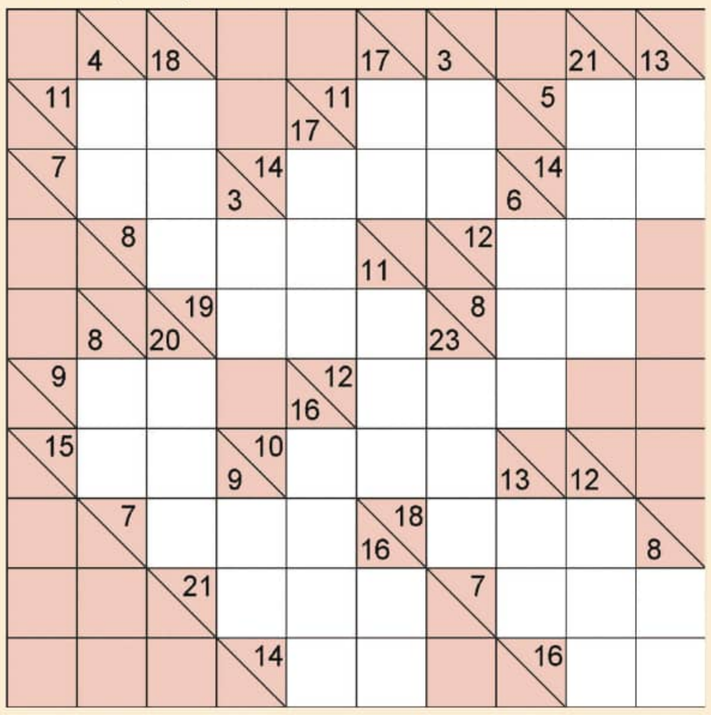
Kakuro

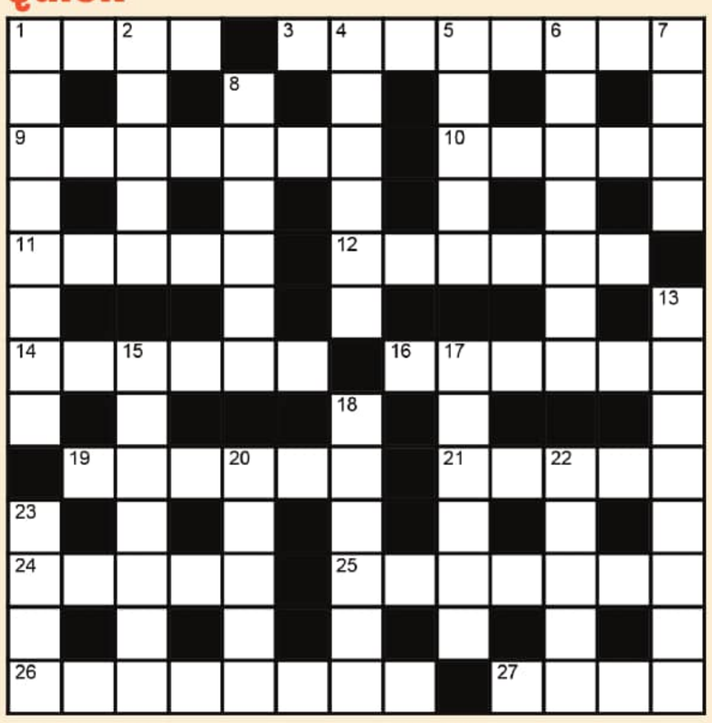


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Village People hit (4)
3 Wrong in opinion (8)
9 This coastal town in North Karnataka is a popular tourist destination (7)
10 Thespian (5)
11 Cheeky (5)
12 Weaken (6)
14 Greek capital (6)
16 Love ____ : one shared by lovers? (6)
19 Poked or pushed (6)
21 Rogue or rascal (5)
24 Fountain in Rome (5)
25 Mournful dirges or poems (7)
26 A piece of lab equipment (4-4)
27 Functions (4)

DOWN

1 A Tito compatriot (8)
2 Pastries (5)
4 Relating to a sloping print style (6)
5 Swagman (5)
6 Bollywood's Ms Kaif (7)
7 Not any (4)
8 Colouring stick (6)
13 Pops the question (8)
15 The good doctors (7)
17 Fix securely (6)
18 Part of speech (6)
20 Erected (5)
22 Pseudonym (5)
23 Coup d'- ___ : change of Govt. (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS G

YXMMBWU YXWU JVM BM-FAXM YWX DR DRFQMX AF MFFMRJADS JW JVM NRBMX-FJDRBARZ WY D OXWHSMU.

Linemaro

I bet you play cricket, because you are a keeper

Mindchow

The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance but the illusion of knowledge

Joke of the day

My boss told me to have a good day. So I went home

Loop

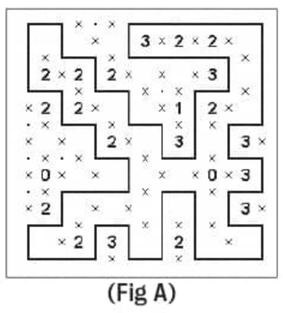
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

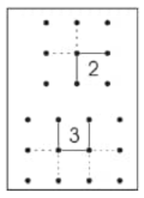
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

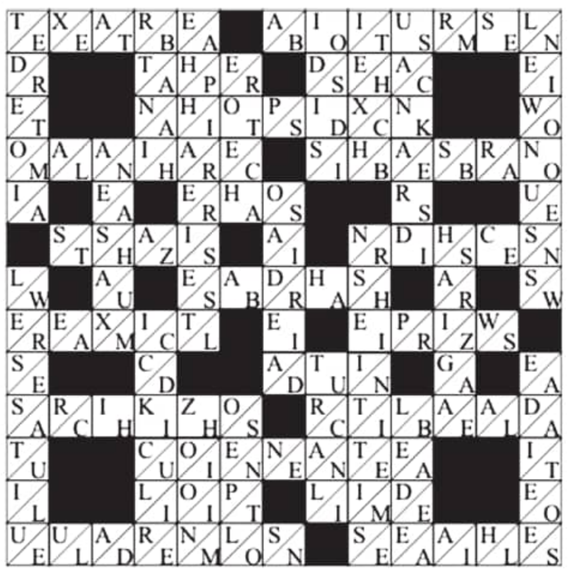


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6			G	
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

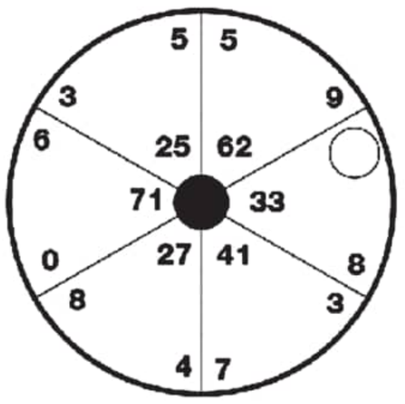
1 A ream; 6 O Mage; 7 Is sad; 8 Eaten; 9 Me row

DOWN

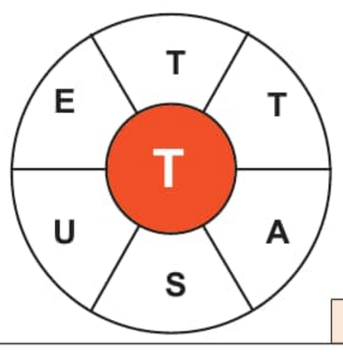
1 Me Dom; 2 Naomi; 3 Wears; 4 Age at; 5 Saree

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from this puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		7	8			3	1	
4					7			
9		8			1	6		2
	2	9						1
8						9	6	
5		2	3			1		6
			2					8
	3	1			6	4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 16

3 5 7 7

Medium = 3

2 2 3 3

Hard = 1

1 6 8 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

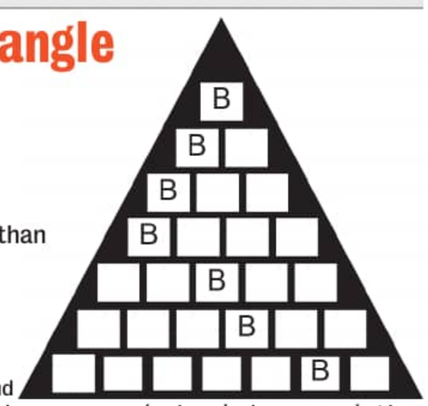
Differences: 1. Envelope is longer. 2. Mailbag strap is longer. 3. Cap is different. 4. Mailbox is longer. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Window is added.

Riddler

Beulah died in the Appalachians while Craig died at sea. Everyone was much happier with Craig's death. Why?

Alpha triangle

1 Type of vitamin
2 Have reality
3 Place to sleep
4 Foreshadow
5 Like brains?
6 Twice as much
7 Intended rather than actual ? (5-2)

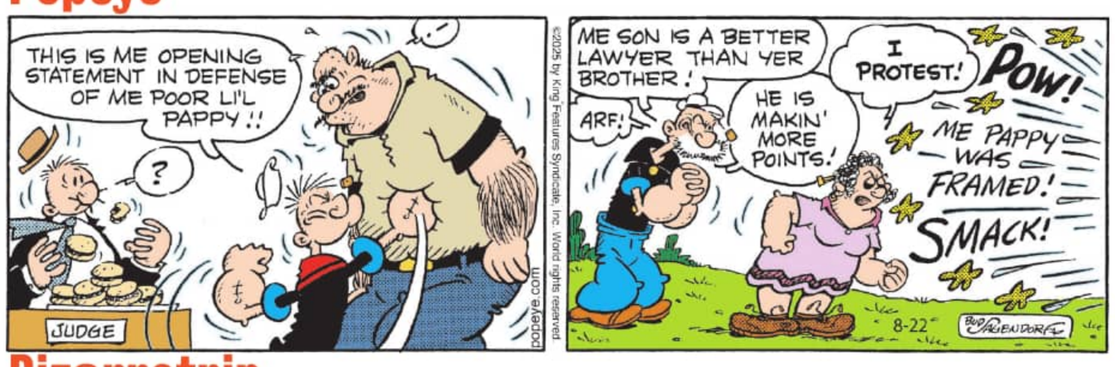


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

WE NOW RETURN TO TONIGHT'S MOVIE...
"HERCULES VERSUS A SIXTY-POUND GIRL SCOUT"
©2015 creators.com 2/12
I THINK THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF THINGS FOR HIM TO FIGHT
OOH! RIGHT IN THE COOKIES!
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BARTKOSTEK

Hart of the city

IT'S SO SWEET THAT YOU REMEMBERED THAT CHARLOTTE WANTED TO START READING TAROT. YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD FRIEND, DEAN!
I DUNNO, MOM. I THINK REMEMBERING WHAT YOUR FRIENDS SAY IS LIKE...THE BARE MINIMUM.
I'M SO PROUD OF HIM. DON'T CRY, DON'T CRY!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
AW MOM, DON'T YOU START CRYING! THEN I'M GONNA START!!
SORRY!! THEY'RE HAPPY TEARS!!
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

ARE YOU GETTING ANY PUSHBACK FROM THE KIDS ON YOUR BUS OVER HAVING TO LOCK THEIR PHONES IN THE POUCH?
SOME...
© 2026 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
ANY DAY NOW... ANY DAY NOW... I SHALL BE RELEASED!
2-11
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
BUT THE CHOIR KIDS ARE THE WORST!

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Professional authority and reputation are your focus. You are stepping into a spotlight where your work is visible to many. Maintain high ethical standards, as your integrity will be tested. A promotion or a public award is likely by early next year. Balance this outward success by making time for your closest, most private relationships and quiet moments.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Intellectual curiosity leads you toward a fascinating new hobby or study. Sign up for a workshop or buy a book on a complex subject. Your brain is a thirsty sponge.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
A deep conversation with a sibling or neighbour reveals a surprising truth. Keep an open mind and avoid jumping to conclusions. Understanding their perspective strengthens your long-term emotional connection.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Communication is key in your professional life today. Ensure your instructions are clear to avoid misunderstandings. Your ability to articulate complex ideas is a major asset to your current team.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Emotional resilience is your strength. You handle a minor setback with grace and poise. Remember that challenges are just opportunities for growth in disguise. Keep moving forward with quiet confidence.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your leadership skills are called upon in a social setting. Guide the group toward a fun and inclusive activity. Your warmth and enthusiasm make everyone feel welcome and truly valued.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Focus on your health and vitality. Try a new recipe or a different type of exercise. Taking care of your body is an investment in your long-term happiness and success.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Collaboration brings out the best in you. Work with a partner on a creative project. Combining your talents results in something much more beautiful than you could create alone today.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Deep reflection brings clarity to a personal matter. Spend time alone with your thoughts. Trusting your inner wisdom allows you to make a decision that aligns with your values.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Travel is on your mind. Start planning your next big adventure. Researching destinations and itineraries brings a sense of excitement and fuels your natural wanderlust for the wide, open world.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Professional recognition is within reach. Your hard work and dedication are noticed by those in power. Stay humble and continue to strive for excellence in everything you do each day.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your humanitarian spirit is ignited. Find a way to give back to your community. Even a small act of kindness can make a big difference in someone else's life today.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Artistic expression is a powerful outlet for your emotions. Paint, write, or play music. Allowing your creativity to flow freely brings a sense of peace and a deeper self-understanding.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[(3^60+3^40) / (3^24+3^44)]^1/4 =
(3^40(3^20+1) / 3^24(1+3^20)]^1/4 =
(3^40/3^24)^1/4 =
(3^16)^1/4 = 3^4 = 81

BULL'S EYE
astute, attest, east, sate, seat, state, statue, STATUTE, suet, taste, taut, test

RIDDLER
Beulah and Craig were hurricanes.

FAST FIVE

M	O	W	E	R
E	N	A	T	E
D	I	S	A	S
O	M	E	G	A
M	A	R	A	E

STRIKE OUT

E	U	D	E	M	O	N	■	S	E	A	L	S		
T	■	C	O	N	N	A	T	E	■	I				
S	C	H	I	Z	O	■	■	R	I	B	A	L	D	
E	■	C	■	D	U	N	■	G	■	A				
R	E	M	I	T	■	E	■	I	R	I	S	■		
W	■	U	■	S	A	R	A	H	■	A	■	S		
■	T	H	A	I	■	A	■	R	I	S	E	S		
A	■	A	■	R	H	O	■	■	R	■	E	■		
M	A	N	I	A	C	■	S	H	A	B	A	N		
E	■	N	I	T	P	I	C	K	■	■	■	W		
D	■	A	P	E	■	S	E	A	■	■	■	E		
E	X	T	R	A	■	B	I	T	U	M	E	N		

QUICK

T	E	S	T	U	B	E	■	U	S	E	S			
A	■	R	■	L	■	R	N	■	A	■	E			
T	R	E	V	I	■	E	L	E	G	I	E	S		
E	■	L	■	U	■	V	■	T	■	L	■	O		
J	A	B	B	E	D	■	S	C	A	M	P	■		
V	■	E	■	■	A	■	A	■	■	■	O	■		
A	T	H	E	N	S	■	A	F	F	A	I	R		
L	■	O	■	C	■	I	M	P	A	I	R	■		
S	A	S	S	Y	■	L	■	■	N	■	■	P		
O	■	E	■	A	■	L	M	■	A	C	T	O	R	
G	O	K	A	R	N	A	■	A	C	T	O	R		
U	■	A	■	C	■	T	■	R	■	A	■	A		
Y	M	C	A	■	M	I	S	T	A	K	E	N		

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Take the 2 digit number at the centre of each segment putting the sum and the difference of the two digits in the segment opposite.

QUOTE UNCODE
Freedom from the desire for an answer is essential to the understanding of a problem.

SUDOKU

7	3	1	9	8	6	4	2	5
6	9	4	2	1	5	7	3	8
5	8	2	3	7	4	1	9	6
8	7	5	1	4	2	9	6	3
1	4	6	5	9	3	2	8	7
3	2	9	7	6	8	5	4	1
9	5	8	4	3	1	6	7	2
4	1	3	6	2	7	8	5	9
2	6	7	8	5	9	3	1	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
B, Be, Bed, Bode, Lobed, Double, Would-be.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 5 – 3 + 7 = 16
Medium
2 – 2 x 3 + 3 = 3
Hard
6 – 8 + 1 + 2 = 1

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # No wedding bells
Marriage "is not in the cards" for Brad Pitt and Ines de Ramon: Report

Not method, it is a process

Aamir reveals his approach to acting and how he brings characters to life

Aamir Khan has never been one to follow the crowd, and this approach extends to his craft as well. Recently, the actor set the record straight on a long-standing assumption about his acting style, firmly dismissing the label of a method actor while opening up about the unique and deeply personal process he follows to bring his characters to life.

During the Masterclass, held in partnership with the Lodha Academy and the Sivasailam Foundation, Aamir also took the opportunity to clear the air around a popular misconception about his approach to acting. Firmly brushing off the method actor tag, he said, "It would be very presumptuous for me to say I'm a method actor because I'm not trained in acting. I follow my own method. For me, it's very important to get into the headspace and energy of the character."

He also put to rest the idea that he struggles to snap out of a character once the shot is done. Speaking honestly, he said, "Even if I'm able to be the character during the shot, it's a big deal. I consider myself blessed when I get into that zone. It's very rare. I'm not such a great actor that I become that character for all my life," and added, "Sometimes, it takes you a while to get out of the zone, but not more than 15-20 minutes." **–ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Survey Number in progress

Shivakumar M Shettihalli is making a film based on the problems of farmers. The movie titled Survey Number 45 is about how farmers are made to run from pillar to post to get the rectification of their land records. Shettihalli also has written the lyrics for two songs and screenplay of the movie supported by Anand SV in association with Hanumantha Reddy SR under the Varanadi Cinemas banner.

"I wrote the script for this movie based on a few real incidents. The movie conveys a message to society that we have to do well to others if we want good things to happen to us," the director said.

He said shooting in and around Hunsur in Mysuru district was wrapped up recently. "As of now, we are busy with the post production works," the director said.

Actress turns producer

Mythriya Gowda, who debuted as a character artiste in Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar-starrer Maurya, has now become a producer. After Maurya, Mythriya has succeeded in acting in eight Kannada movies. For 10 years, she has been away from Kannada movies and busy with social activities.

Now, she makes a comeback to Sandalwood as a producer by launching Mythriya Global Trust on the occasion of her birthday. Actor Anirudh, senior producer Uday Mehta, and MLC TA Sharavana were present on the occasion.

"I am impressed by Anirudh's social service and Uday Mehta's working style. They are my inspiration to launch the trust today. I want to encourage newcomers who want to try their luck in Sandalwood. I want to take up social activities, including help to old age homes, orphanages and feeding of stray dogs through the Trust," she said.

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